ARTICLES

TO BE

Enquired of and Answered unto

BY THE

Church-Wardens and Sworn Men

IN THE

Ordinary Visitation

OF THE

Right Reverend Father in GOD

CHARLES

Lord BISHOP of *Norwich*,

1716.

NORWICH:

Printed by *W. Chase*, at the *Printing-Press* in the Market: Who Binds and Sells all Sorts of Church-Bibles, Common-Prayers, *&c.* very Reasonably.

The Oath to be Administred to the Church-Wardens (and Sides-men) of every Parish.

YOU shall Swear truly and faithfully to Execute the Office of a Church-warden (or Sides-man) within your Parish, and shall diligently Enquire and make true Presentment of all such Things and Persons as you know to be presentable by the Ecclesiastical Laws of this Realm.

So help you GOD.

R20908

ARTICLES *of* ENQUIRY, *&c.*

IN THE

Diocese of *NORWICH.*

TIT. I.

Concerning Churches or Chapels, with the Glebes, Tithes, Houses, Books, Ornaments, and other Goods and Revenues belonging thereunto.

I. IS your Parish-Church or Chapel, with the Chancel thereof in good and sufficient Repair, in the Roof and Windows, Floor and Seats; and are all Things therein kept in an orderly and decent sort? Is your Tower or Steeple in good Repair, and the Bells, Clock, and Chimes kept in good Order? *Can.* 85.

II. Hath any Part of your Church, Chancel, or Steeple been demolished or fallen down, what Part, and how long since? Or hath any of the Lead, Timber, Bells, Plate, or other Church-Goods, been embeziled or sold, and by whom?

III. Is there a Font of Stone in your Church or Chapel with a Cover to it, standing in the antient usual Place? Is there a Communion Table in your Chancel, covered in time of Divine Service with a decent Carpet, and when the Communion is administred with a fair Linnen Cloth: And have you a Basin for the Alms, a Patin or Plate for the Bread, a Chalice or Communion Cup with a Cover, and One or more Flaggons: Have any of these Things been profaned by common Use? *Can.* 81, 82.

IV. Have you a convenient Seat or Pew wherein to read Divine Service, a Pulpit with a decent Cloth or Cushion, a large Bible of the last Translation, a Book of Common-Prayer according to the last Act of Uniformity, the Books of Homilies set forth by Authority, a printed Table of the Degrees wherein Marriages are prohibited, a Book of the 39 Articles, a Book of Canons, a decent Surplice duly washed at the Charge of the Parish, and a Hood suitable to your Minister's Degree? *Can.* 80. 82, 83.

V. Have you a Parchment Book for the Registring of the Day and Year of every Christning, Wedding, and Burial in your Parish; and is it kept in a strong Chest or Coffer, with Three Locks and Keys, and in all Points according to the Canons in that behalf; and a Book for the Church-Wardens Accounts? *Can.* 70.

VI. Have you a Chest or Boxes in which the Alms of the Parishioners are to be gathered and received; a large Chest for the Books, Ornaments,

and Writings belonging to the Church; a Bier, with a black Herſe-cloth for Burials?

VII. Is your Churchyard well fenced, and decently kept? Hath any Perſon encroached upon it, or made any Door into it: Have any Trees there growing been cut down, how long ſince, and by whom?

Can. 85. VIII. Is the Dwelling-Houſe of your Parſon, Vicar, or Curate, with the Barn, and all the Out-houſes in good Repair: Have any of them been leſſened, defaced, or pulled down without Licenſe: Hath any Waſte been made of the Timber on the Glebe: When, and by whom?

IX. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-Lands, Meadows, Gardens, Orchards, Houſes, Stocks, and Implements belonging to your Parſonage or Vicarage: As alſo a Note of ſuch Penſions, Rate-Tithes, and Portion of Tithes, or other yearly Profits (either within or without your Pariſh) as belong thereunto: Have any Encroachments been made upon the ſame, or have any of them been with-held from your Miniſter, and by whom, as you know or have heard: Have any of the antient Glebe-Lands belonging to your Parſonage or Vicarage been alienated by Sale or Exchange, without Licenſe from the Ordinary, and free Conſent of the Patron and Incumbent; by whom, and how long ſince was ſuch Exchange or Alienation made. Is your Parſonage or Vicarage damnified thereby?

Can. 87.

X. Have you any Legacies, Lands, Tenements, or Stocks of Money given or belonging to the Reparation of your Church or Chapel, the Relief of the Poor, or other Pariſh Charges: Are they employed to the Uſe they were given: If not, in whom is the Fault: Are the Church-houſes or Town-houſes in ſufficient Repair?

Lynd. de Off Archid XI. Have you a Terrier of all ſuch Church-lands, and Town-lands, and Houſes, ſetting forth their Quantity, yearly Value, Abbuttals, and preſent *C.ut Archd.* Occupiers: Have you a Note of all the Plate, Ornaments, Books, and Goods belonging to the Church: Have you true Copies of ſuch Terriers and Notes to be filed up in the Biſhop's Regiſtry:

7 Anne c. 14 XII. Have you any Parochial Library in your Church or Pariſh? Is there any abuſe in the management of the ſame? Is there a Catalogue of the Books belonging to the ſame deliver'd into the Biſhop's Court?

TIT II

Concerning MINISTERS.

Can. 48. I S your Miniſter, ſo far as you know or believe, Epiſcopally ordained Deacon and Prieſt according to the Laws of this Realm: Hath he been legally inſtituted and inducted; and read the 39 Articles within the Time by Law appointed, and declared his Aſſent to them, and to the Book of Common-Prayer: Is he defamed or ſuſpected to have obtained either his Benefice or Orders by any Symoniacal Compact?

Stat 13. *Eliz C.* 12. II. Is your Miniſter conſtantly reſident among you and doth he preach every Lord's Day, unleſs hindred by Sickneſs, or reaſonable Abſence: How long in any one Year has he been abſent from his Cure:

Can. 45. III. Hath your Miniſter any Curate to aſſiſt him or is your Benefice a bare Curacy: Is ſuch Curate an able, diſcreet, and ſober Perſon, conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church of *England*: Is he Licenſed by the Ordinary: And is there a ſufficient Salary or Stipend allowed him by your Miniſter, or the Impropriator: And how much?

IV. Hath your Parſon, Vicar or Curate, any other Eccleſiaſtical Benefice; *Can.* 47, 48 or doth he ſerve any other Cure beſides: And at what Diſtance?

V. Doth

V. Doth your Parſon, Vicar or Curate, in Reading the daily Morning and Evening Service, Adminiſtration of the Holy Sacraments, Celebration of Marriage, Churching of Women after Child-birth, Viſitation of the Sick, and Burial of the Dead, uſe the Form and Words preſcribed in the Book of Common-Prayer, and all ſuch Rites and Ceremonies as are appointed in that Book, ſo far as you have obſerved: And doth he read the Service with an audible and diſtinct Voice: Doth he add to, or omit any Part of the Office appointed to be read? *Act of Uniformity. Can. 14.*

VI. Doth your Miniſter at the Reading and Celebrating Divine Offices in your Church or Chapel wear the Surplice, together with ſuch other Habit as is uſual to his Degree? *Can. 58.*

VII. Doth he celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper ſo often, that every Pariſhoner may receive it Thrice at leaſt in every Year: And doth he keep back ſuch as ought not to be admitted, giving an Account of them to the Biſhop? *Can. 21, 22 62. Rubrick before the Commun.*

VIII. Doth your Miniſter diligently inſtruct the Youth of your Pariſh in the Church Catechiſm: And doth he prepare and preſent them, being ſo inſtructed, to be confirmed by the Biſhop? *Can. 59.*

IX. Doth he refuſe or neglect to viſit the Sick, or delay the Baptiſm of any Infant in Danger of Death: Is there any Child paſt Infancy, or other Perſons grown up, who through your Miniſter's Default yet remain unbaptized in your Pariſh? *Rubrick before Confirmation. Can. 61.*

X. Hath he married any Perſons without Banns firſt publiſhed in the Church on three Sundays or Holy-days, unleſs he had a License ſo to do: Hath he married any Perſons in private Houſe, or ſuch as being under Age have not the Conſent of their Parents or Guardians, or at any other Hours than between Eight and Twelve in the Morning; or at any Hour Perſons that are prohibited to marry, according to the Table of Marriage? *Can. 67, 69 Can. 62, 63*

XI. Doth your Miniſter declare to the People every Sunday the ſeveral Holy-days and Faſting-days in the Week following, and doth he obſerve them? *Can. 64.*

XII. Is he a Man of a ſober, ſtudious, peaceable, and exemplary Life: Is he grave, modeſt, and regular in his outward Demeanour and Apparel: Doth he uſe any Trade, Gaming Farming, or Merchandiſing for filthy Lucres ſake: Is he in any kind diſorderly and ſcandalous? *Can. 74, 75*

XIII. Doth your Miniſter with the Church-wardens and chief Men of the Pariſh make a Perambulation upon ſome of the Rogation-days, to view the Limits and Bounds of the Pariſh, and to deſire God's Bleſſing on the Fruits of the Earth: How long ſince was the laſt Perambulation?

XIV. Have you any Perſon within your Pariſh who being Ordain'd Prieſt or Deacon hath voluntarily relinquiſh'd his Calling, and does behave himſelf in the Courſe of his Life as a Lay-man: Or is there any Perſon not Ordained according to the Form of making Prieſts and Deacons in the Book of Common-Prayer, that does openly read Divine Service, preach, or execute any Miniſterial Duty in your Church or Chapel? *Can. 50, 76*

TIT. III.

Concerning the PARISHIONERS.

I. IS there in your Pariſh any Perſon that denies the Being of a God, or or any one of the Perſons in the Holy Trinity to be God, or that denies the Chriſtian Religion to be true, or the Holy Scriptures of the Old *Act 9, & 10 Will. c. 32*

and

and New Teſtament to be of Divine Authority, or that maintains any Atheiſtical or Immoral Principles and Opinions?

Can. 109. II. Is there any Perſon in your Pariſh who lieth under a common Fame or Suſpicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Inceſt; wilful Violation of Oath in an Eccleſiaſtical Court, or Falſifying any Eccleſiaſtical Inſtruments: Are there any common Drunkards, Swearers, or Blaſphemers of God's Name; or any that are noted to be filthy Talkers, Railers, Sowers of Sedition, Faction or Diſcord among their Neighbours: Or any that by Sorcery, Charms, or Aſtrology pretend to tell Fortunes and diſcover loſt Goods, or any that conſult with ſuch Perſons?

III. Are there any Perſons within your Pariſh that have committed Incontinency together before Marriage: Hath any Woman unmarried being with Child, been harboured or delivered in your Pariſh, and departed thence before ſhe had done Penance or been cenſured by the Ordinary; and in whoſe Houſe has ſhe been harboured or delivered: Or hath any Woman unlawfully begotten with Child in your Pariſh removed or been conveyed from thence: By whom have ſuch Perſons been removed or conveyed: Who are ſuſpected to be the Fathers of ſuch Children?

Can. 85. IV. Are there any that refuſe to pay their *Eaſter* Offerings, and other Dues belonging to your Miniſter; or to contribute to the Rate made for Repair of your Church or Chapel, or any thing thereunto belonging?

Can. 18. V. Doth every Pariſhioner demean himſelf Reverently in your Church or Chapel, during Divine Service and Preaching the Word of God, continuing all the Time with his Head uncovered, kneeling at the Prayers and Sacrament; ſtanding up when the Creed and Goſpel are read; ſaying audibly with the Miniſter the Confeſſion, Lord's-Prayer, and Creed; and making ſuch other Anſwers to the Publick Prayers as are appointed in the Book of Common-prayer: Are there any that by Walking, Talking, or other Noiſe, hinder the Miniſter or Preacher?

VI. Are there any in your Pariſh who under Pretence of Liberty of Conſcience wholly neglect all publick Worſhip of God, neither going to Church, nor to any Aſſembly that meet together according to the late Act for Exempting Their Majeſties Proteſtant Subjects diſſenting from the Church of *England* from the Penalties of certain Laws; Have you any ſuch Aſſembly of Diſſenters in your Pariſh: Have they certified the Place of their Meeting to the Biſhop, or ſuch others as that Act appoints: Do they meet with their Doors locked, barred or bolted during the Time of their Meeting: Have their Preachers ſubſcribed the Articles of our Religion (except thoſe excepted in the Act) and taken the Oaths, and ſubſcribed the Declaration therein required?

Act for Exempting, &c.

Can 11. VII. Have you any Popiſh Recuſants in your Pariſh, Men, Women, or Children, above the Age of Thirteen Years: If ſo, what are their Names?

Can. 112. VIII. Are there any profeſſing to live in the Communion of the Church of *England* who neglect to come to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, being of Age fit to receive it: Or any that refuſe to ſend their Children or Servants to be catechiſed: Or do any Children or Servants refuſe to come, What Age are they of?

Can. 13. IX. Do any of your Pariſh profane the Lord's-day, by neglecting the Publick Service, by following their bodily Labour or ordinary Callings, or uſing unlawful Recreations, or permitting their Servants or Children ſo to do: Are any Wares ſold, or do any Vintners or Alehouſe-keepers ſuffer any Perſons to Tipple or Game in their Houſes on thoſe Days?

Can. 97. 107. X. Are there any living within your Pariſh as Man and Wife, who are within

within the Degrees prohibited: Or any that being divorced have married again to other Persons; Or that being lawfully married, and not separated or divorced by due Course of Law, do not cohabit together?

X. Do you know, or have you heard of any in your Parish, who having the Presentation of an Ecclesiastical Living, hath made any Simoniacal Compact or Gain thereby; either in Money, or by Reserve of any Part of the Tithes or Glebe belonging to the Benefice; Or by any other corrupt Method? *Can. 29.*

XII. Hath any Gallery, Pews, Seats, or large Monuments been erected or pulled down in your Church or Chapel, without Leave from the Ordinary: Is there any Strife or Contention about Seats in the Church: Are there any Seats of an extraordinary or indecent Height, so as to hide the Reverend Behaviour of those that sit in them from the rest of the Congregation, or to hinder their Neighbours in hearing Divine Service?

XIII. Is there any Person that hath fought, quarrelled, or brawled in your Church or Church-yard, Or any that hath quarrelled with, stricken or used any Violence to, libelled or spoken any slanderous Words against any Minister, in contempt of his Person and Office? *5 & 6 Ed. vi C. 4. Ar. Cl. c.*

XIV. Have you any in your Parish that be denounced Excommunicate: How long have they been so: Do they presume notwithstanding to come to Church: Do any keep familiar Society with them? *Can. 65. 3*

XV. Are there any Wills or Testaments of any Persons dead within your Parish concealed, suppressed, and not yet proved: Hath any Person administre or intermedled with the Goods of any Persons dying intestate within your Parish, before Administration granted to him by the Ordinary? *21 H. viii. C. 5.*

TIT. IV.

Concerning PARISH-CLERKS and SEXTONS.

I. HAve you a Parish-Clerk aged Twenty One Years at least: Is he of an Honest Life and Conversation, able to perform his Duty in Reading, Writing, and Singing: Is he chosen by your Minister, and obedient to him: Doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services in the Church: Are his Wages duly paid him, or who with-holds the same from him? *Can. 91.*

II. Doth he or your Sexton keep the Church and the Ornaments belonging to the same clean and decent, and toll or ring the Bells before Divine Service, and perform all other Parts of their Duties diligently and faithfully?

TIT. V.

Concerning Ecclesiastical OFFICERS.

HAth any Ecclesiastical Judge or Officer within this Diocese, any Advocate, Register, Proctor, Clerk, or Apparitor, any way offended in their Offices or Services, contrary to the Canons and Laws Ecclesiastical; and in what manner?

TIT. VI.

Concerning School-masters, Schools, and Hospitals.

Can. 77. 78. 79. I. WHat School-master, private or publick, is there in your Parish: Is he Licensed by the Bishop: Does he teach his Scholars the Church Catechism: Doth he cause them to repair orderly to the Church or Chapel on Sundays and Holy-days, and there see that they behave themselves quietly and reverently, during the Time of Divine Service and Sermon?

2 Hen. V. c. 1. II. What Hospital or Free-School is there (not of Royal Foundation or Patronage) in your Parish: Are they in good Repair, and so ordered in their Revenue and Use as the Founders appointed, and the Law of the Land allows?

3 Hen VIII c. 11. III. What Persons are there in your Parish that practice Physick, Chyrurgery, or Midwifery: Have they License from the Ordinary?

TIT. VII.

Concerning CHURCH-WARDENS.

Can. 89. I. ARE the Church-wardens of your Parish yearly and duly chosen:

Ibid. II. Have the former and last Church-wardens given up a just Account of the Money they have received and laid out for the Use of the Church: And have they delivered up the Money remaining in their Hands to the succeeding Church-wardens, together with all other Things belonging to your Church or Chapel:

Rubrick after Commun. III. Do they provide against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chapel, a sufficient Quantity of fine White Bread and good Wine, according to the Number of the Communicants, at the Charges of the Parish:

☞ *It is expected that the Minister and Church-wardens of every Parish take great Care in making, renewing, and giving in* [*fairly ingrossed*] *Terriers, with* new Abuttals *of the Glebe,* &c. *and in Vicarages particularly specifying what Tithes by Composition or Prescription belong to the Vicar.*

It is further required, That they annex a true Account of all Houses, Lands, Summs of Money, &c. *given by any last Will and Testament, or otherwise, to the Reparation of their Church, Maintenance of the Poor, or other pious or Charitable Use within their Parishes, with the Abuttals, Quantity, yearly Value, and present Occupiers of the same.*

They are also to give in in Writing a true, plain, and perfect Note of all the Bells, Books, and other Ornaments and Goods belonging to their several Churches and Chapels.

At the Bottom or on the Back of the Bills indented of Births, Marriages, and Burials, they are to set down the Number of all the Persons of both Sexes, within their respective Parishes above the Age of Sixteen Years; how many of them are Popish Recusants, and how many Protestant Dissenters, and of what Perswasion. In the Bills when the Parties married or buried, or the Parents of Children Christened are not Parishoners, they are to put down the Places of the Habitation of such Parties and and Parents: In the Burials they are to distinguish Men and Women from Children, and married Women from Widows; and in the Marriages to certifie whether the Parties were married by Banns or License, and these Bills are to be continued to the Day of the Visitation.